

MEETING MINUTES

KELLY AFB TECHNICAL REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE (TRS) TO THE RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)

13 November 2001, Kennedy High School,
1922 S. General McMullen
Dr. Gene Lené, TRS Community Co-chair

Attendees

Dr. Gene Lené, Community Co-chair	Ms. Lisa Price, U.S. EPA (alternate for Ms. Stankosky)
Dr. David Smith, Facilitator	Ms. Katherine Ramos, Community Member (alternate for Mr. Quintanilla)
Mr. Scott Lampright, Bexar Co. Fire Marshal	Mr. Robert Silvas, Community Member
Mr. Dan Zatopek, AFBCA	Mr. Nicolas Rodriguez, Community Member
Mr. Doug Karas, AFBCA	Ms. Kyle Cunningham, SAMHD, (Alternate for Mr. Sam Sanchez)
Mr. Robert Miller, Booz Allen & Hamilton (BA&H)	Mr. Russ Rohne, AFBCA
Ms. Tracy McLoughlin, BA&H	Ms. Abbi Power, TNRCC
Ms. Lynn Myrick, BA&H	Mr. Don Buelter, AFBCA
Mr. Blake Carroll, BA&H	Mr. Jeff Neathery, TAPP contractor
Mr. Eddie Martinez, BA&H	
Mr. William Ryan, AFBCA	
Mr. Mark Weegar, TNRCC	

Several community members were also in attendance.

I. Introduction: The meeting convened at 6:34 p.m.

Dr. David Smith welcomed everyone and indicated that this TRS meeting had to adjourn on time.

II. Zone 5 Presentation

Mr. Russell Rohne gave a presentation on the Focused Feasibility Study for Zone 5, Plume A. He stated that there are 11 distinct plumes within Zone 5, and that this study is focused on Plume A. The corrective measures study (CMS), which was submitted in February 2000, addresses the source and perimeter of the plume. He said that the document is available for review at the San Antonio Central Library downtown and at the Kelly Information Repository. Additionally, handouts were available at a table in the back of the room. Mr. Rohne informed everyone that new technologies have become available since the CMS was submitted. He proceeded to show the map depicting Plume A. He stated that Plume A consists mostly of Trichloroethylene (TCE) contamination caused by solvents emanating by Building 1414.

Discussion

Mr. Robert Silvas: When did the contamination take place?

Mr. Rohne: The actual contamination that came from Building 1414 began in the 1960s and 1970s, but we believe some other sources contributed to the plume. Any area where suspected sources have been removed, contained high concentrations of TCE. The sources included oil/water separators, lift stations, and drain lines. Since the removal of these components, there has been a decrease in concentrations in the source area and stable concentrations in the plume.

Mr. Silvas: When were the readings on the levels of TCE taken?

Mr. Rohne: Recently.

Mr. Rohne presented a series of charts on Plume A. There were nine alternatives shown in the Focused Feasibility Study. Three of the alternatives were used for this plume. The alternatives were categorized as No Action; in-situ oxygen treatment perimeter, Permeable Reactive Barrier (PRB), and enhanced bioremediation perimeter, PRB. Enhanced bioremediation, was selected as the alternative. The main reason for this choice was cost. Mr. Rohne went on to explain enhanced bioremediation which is the use of organic supplements to increase microorganism activity and break down chlorinated solvents to harmless byproducts. Typical organic products used are vegetable oil and molasses.

Mr. Scott Lampright: What are the byproducts?

Mr. Rohne: Ethenes.

Mr. Lampright: Are these less harmful than volatile organic compounds (VOCs)?

Mr. Rohne: Yes.

Mr. Rohne went on to explain that this is an emerging technology with good results.

Ms. Katherine Ramos: Has this technology ever been used in areas this big?

Mr. Rohne: I cannot say that it has.

Mr. Rohne went on to explain the PRB. PRB is the use of a wall that reacts with groundwater, and chlorinated solvents are chemically changed to harmless byproducts. Zero valent iron is the preferred reactive media because it is cheaper in the long run, compared to pump and treat systems. There is increasing frequency of use. It is a new but accepted technology.

Mr. Lampright: How deep and wide would it be?

Mr. Rohne: I do not know the exact measurements, but I will get you a response.

Mr. Rohne went on to say that the comment period would start October 22 and end November 20. He added that written comments could either be sent to the Air Force Base Conversion Agency (AFBCA), or they could be accepted during the meeting.

Mr. Mark Weegar: This public comment period is an internal AFBCA CERCLA approach. This is not the start of the regulatory comment period for the CMS.

Mr. Rohne: Yes, this comment period is a voluntary effort by AFBCA.

III. City Council Recommendations on Zone 4 Shallow Groundwater Cleanup

Mr. Ryan gave a background on the City Council Meeting that took place on October 18 and what the recommendations were that resulted from this meeting. In November 2000, Councilman Garcia requested AFBCA to brief City Council on the cleanup of Kelly. City Council then directed the City of San Antonio (CoSA) to hire an independent consultant to assess the groundwater cleanup options. Zephyr Environmental was selected to perform the assessment. Zephyr presented their recommendations at the City Council meeting. The Air Force will submit the Zone 4 CMS within 60 days of receipt of CoSA's report.

Mr. Ryan talked about the well plugging project that the Air Force is working in conjunction with the San Antonio Water System and San Antonio Metropolitan Health District. He stated that the Air Force is willing to pay to have wells over the plume plugged.

Dr. Gene Lené: How many wells have been identified?

Mr. Ryan: There are 115 in the designated area; 25 are actually over the plume.

Ms. Kyle Cunningham: There are wells that have already been plugged. They may have not been plugged properly, however, which is one thing that will be identified.

Dr. Lené: How can you tell if a well is properly plugged?

Mr. Ryan: Both records of the well and a visual inspection will be used to determine if a well was properly plugged.

Mr. Weegar: Are the city and state aware of plugging regulations?

Ms. Cunningham: A state inspector will be accompanying the identification team.

Mr. Silvas: Are all these wells on the perimeter of the base? If so, are you going to plug wells off- base?

Mr. Ryan: These wells are all off- base.

Mr. Silvas: What has been done to identify these wells?

Mr. Ryan: The process was done in phases; contacting residents in the Kelly vicinity, obtaining United States Geological Survey identification, and comparing electrical records with water records.

Mr. Silvas: What is the specified area where wells will be plugged?

Mr. Ryan: The area will extend past the San Antonio River and go north of Highway 90.

Dr. Lené: Are wells outside the plume going to be plugged?

Mr. Ryan: Yes, if there is potential for contamination.

Mr. Silvas: Are the wells that are going to be plugged going to be tested also?

Ms. Cunningham: We will test all wells unless circumstances do not allow for it.

Dr. Lené: Will anything be done for the existing Edwards wells?

Mr. Ryan: A records search showed that more than half the wells have a double casing.

IV. Dan Zatopek Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) presentation

Ms. Lisa Price asked about how the TAPP grant would be directed. She said that the nature and extent of contamination have been pretty well defined; therefore, the direction for the TAPP contractor should be toward off-site contamination. Mr. Zatopek agreed that a decision on the focus of the TAPP review should be made before the meeting is adjourned tonight. Dr. Lené expressed concern about overstepping the requirement and that we may be going too far. Ms. Ramos stated that the perception that Mr. Jeff Neathery would be serving as a watchdog instead of an educator might be a problem. Mr. Weegar stated that since the EPA comments are already out, the TAPP review was coming after the fact. He suggested that instead of focusing on the nature and extent of contamination, the TAPP review should focus on the RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) to see if data are complete enough to make remedy decision. Ms. Price suggested that the RFI could be reviewed to determine whether the report contains enough geologic information; the TAPP contractor agrees with the report's interpretations, and believes that enough information exists to proceed with design and construction. Mr. Neathery said that would fit in with design and original intent. Dr. Lene stated that the intent is not for TAPP to design for the AF. Mr. Neathery said that a decision can be made when the final presentation is ready and comments are evaluated. Mr. Zatopek then reviewed the administrative requirements and stated that the TAPP review would focus on Operable Unit 2 groundwater, and the next steps and validity of design. Mr. Weegar clarified that the focus should be on whether there is sufficient information in the RFI to make a design.

Schedule for TAPP Pre-Performance Meeting Procedures

January 22 – Draft Report to be mailed to TRS members

February TRS – Oral presentation to TRS and question-and-answer session

April RAB – Delivery of final presentation

Mr. Weegar informed members of the TRS that Mr. Roddy Stinson's commentary included information that was given to him prior to its being released at the TRS meeting. Dr. Lené informed the TRS that draft information should not be released.

V. Administrative

A. BRAC Cleanup Team (BCT) Meeting Update

1. The BCT notes were provided to Dr. Lené.
2. The BCT meeting today was shorter due to the ceremonial kickoff of the Public Center for Environmental Health.
3. The demolition of Building 301 is 98 percent complete. There is only a minor amount of debris remaining.
4. Contact was made with 26 individuals who volunteered to participate in the Fruit and Nut Study. Peppers were collected, with collection of pecans to follow this week.

5. The industrial wastewater treatment plant is no longer operational, so it will be demolished beginning in March of next year. The project will take four to five months to complete. Mr. Silvas asked about air monitoring results, but they were not yet available. Mr. Ryan will get the results to Mr. Silvas.

B. Spill Report: No spills to report.

C. Documents Delivered to TRS: Dr. Lene received the documents. Mr. Silvas would like copies of the Building 301 air monitoring results. He also asked what the classifications of the soil were. Mr. Ryan informed him that they were Class 2 non- hazardous. Mr. Silvas also asked how the metal was disposed. Mr. Ryan informed him that the metal was recycled or disposed in accordance with regulations.

D. Action Items: The response to a previous TRS action item was included in the packets.

E. Approval of September TRS minutes: Mr. Weegar disputed use of the word “discovery” as quoted to him. Recommended changes will be made to the minutes that will be included in the RAB packets. Dr. Lené would like to get the TRS minutes with the agenda in the future to better allow review prior to the meeting. Dr. Lené and Mr. Weegar did not get agendas mailed.

E. Agenda for Next Meeting: No items were discussed.

F. Next TRS Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2001, 6:30 p.m. The location will be the Las Palmas Library.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.